

Week of July 2 – July 8, 2008

Don't become a statistic over the long weekend

Whatever your plans may be this Independence Day weekend, your leaders, supervisors and Wingmen want to see you return to work safely. Even everyday activities like driving an automobile or riding a motorcycle—when combined with excessive speed or alcohol—can yield deadly results.

Have fun, but play it safe. Here are some things to keep in mind as you make plans for this—or any—holiday weekend.

- Make Operational Risk Management a part of your daily routine. These principles can be used at work, home and while participating in a variety of activities to prevent many mishaps and fatalities. To find out more about ORM, contact your local ground safety office.
- Motorcycle-related activities can be particularly risky, and riders should always be extremely cautious. If you operate a motorcycle, you must complete the appropriate Motorcycle Safety Foundation education training course, and remember to wear all required personal protective equipment when riding on or off base.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is detrimental to your health and welfare, your career, your family and sometimes other innocent people. Also, look out for your Wingmen and help them avoid making bad decisions involving drugs or alcohol.
- Fireworks injure thousands of people annually. Know the laws of your state, read all warnings and instructions, and avoid home-made fireworks.
- Water-related activities are popular during the summer months, and Airmen and their families should have all required safety gear on hand and take special care while participating in water sports. Always use risk management and good judgment before engaging in high-risk activities.

We are celebrating our Nation's independence and this should be a fun-filled day for Airmen and their families. By following the law and Air Force regulations, and focusing on safety, we can ensure everyone has a safe holiday weekend.

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